XXIII. *Account of a Child who had the Small-pox in the Womb. In a Letter from* William Wright, *M. D. F. R. S. to* John Hunter, *Esq. F. R. S.*

Read May 21, 1781.

Southampton-buildings, Holborn,
Feb. 27, 1781.

SIR,

I HAVE read with much pleaſure and information Mrs. FORD's caſe, which you publiſhed in Phil. Tranſ. vol. LXX. p. 128. From the facts you have adduced it amounts to a certainty, that her fœtus had received the variolous infection in the womb.

This induces me to lay before you a ſingular caſe, that fell under my care ſome years ago. I am ſorry I cannot be more particular, having unfortunately loſt all my books and my notes of practice of this caſe and ſeveral others, by the capture of the convoy on the 9th of laſt Auguſt.

In 1768 the ſmall-pox was ſo general in Jamaica that very few people eſcaped the contagion. About the middle of June Mr. PETERKIN, merchant at Martha-brae, in the pariſh of Trelawney, got about fifty new negroes out of a ſhip: ſoon after they landed, ſeveral were taken ill of a fever, and the ſmall pox appeared; the others were immediately inoculated. Amongſt the number of thoſe who had the diſeaſe in the natural way, was a woman of about twenty-two years of age, and big with child. The eruptive fever was ſlight, and the ſmall-pox

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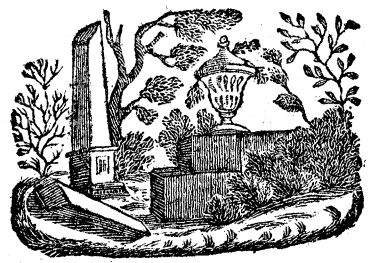
ſmall-pox had appeared before I ſaw her. They were few, diſtinct and large, and ſhe went through the diſeaſe with very little trouble, till on the fourteenth day from the eruption ſhe was attacked with the fever, which laſted only a few hours. She was, however, the ſame day taken in labour, and delivered of a female child with the ſmall-pox on her whole body, head, and extremities. They were diſtinct and very large, ſuch as they commonly appear on the eighth or ninth day in favourable caſes. The child was ſmall and weakly; ſhe could ſuck but little; a wet nurſe was procured, and every poſſible care taken of this infant, but ſhe died the third day after ſhe was born. The mother recovered, and is now the property of ALEXANDER PETERKIN, Eſq. in St. James's Pariſh.

In the courſe of many years practice in Jamaica, I have remarked, that where pregnant women had been ſeized with the natural ſmall-pox, or been by miſtake inoculated, that they generally miſcarried in the time of, or ſoon after, the eruptive fever; but I never ſaw any ſigns of ſmall-pox on any of their bodies, except on the child's above mentioned.

I am, &c.